Appl. No. 10/827,235

Amendment dated: August 16, 2005

Reply to OA of: May 24, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 was dependent on claim 11 which in turn was dependent on claim 7. Applicants have therefore restricted the application to the indicated allowable subject matter by rewriting claim 7 to include all of the limitations of claims 11 and 12. Claim 7 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 12 have been canceled from the application without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants believe that claims 8-10 are allowable since they are directly or indirectly dependent upon the amended claim 7 which is allowable. Applicants most respectfully submit that all the claims now present in the application are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112 and are clearly patentable over the references of record.

Applicants have amended the specification and drawings to more particularly define the invention taking into consideration the outstanding Official Action.

The Examiner objected to the specification in the Official Action because the Brief Description Of The Drawings does not refer to "Fig. 1". Applicants have amended the Brief Description Of The Drawings to refer to "Fig. 1" and the Drawing to be labeled as "Fig. 1" and most respectfully requests this objection be withdrawn in view of the amendments thereto.

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 7 thereby obviating the objection thereto. Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Appl. No. 10/827,235

Amendment dated: August 16, 2005

Reply to OA of: May 24, 2005

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action and places the application in condition for allowance. Also, the amendment does not raise new issues. For the reasons discussed above, Applicants now respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn and that claims 7-10 be allowed in their present form. If the Examiner feels that any issues that remain require discussions, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

Richard E. Fichter

Registration No. 26,382

625 Slaters Lane, 4th Fl. Alexandria, Virginia 22314 Phone: (703) 683-0500 Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

REF:kdd

August 16, 2005

Appl. No. 10/827,235

Amendment dated: August 16, 2005

Reply to OA of: May 24, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace the original drawing sheet with the amended drawing sheet labeled as Fig. 1 and is found at the end of this paper marked "Replacement Sheet".